mining and to take action. As informed by Ministry of Mines the Central Government is not empowered under MMDR Act to book any illegal miner for offence. However, whenever the Central Government has received complaint of illegal mining, these are enquired into by Indian Bureau of Mines and the concerned State Governments are requested to take stringent action.

Forest Cover

338. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the forest cover which were making valuable contributions to the national ecosystem, State-wise;

(b) the comparative details of the forest cover during the last five years, State-wise; and

(c) the steps being taken to improve the forest cover in each State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH) : (a) The State-wise details of forest cover is given in the Statement-I (See below).

(b) The details of forest cover (State-wise) from 2001 to 2005 are given in the STATEMENT-II *(See* below). The latest data on - forest cover is available based upon State of Forests Report, 2005 published by Forest Survey of India (FSI), Dehradun.

(c) The steps taken to increase the forest cover under various schemes of Central and State Government include National Afforestation Programme, Integrated Forest Protection Scheme, Eco-Development Force (EDF) Scheme, Grants-in- Aid for Greening India Scheme, Gram Van Yojana (GVY) for afforestation on non forest lands, Assistance for Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries for afforestation, regeneration of degraded forests etc.

Statement-I

*Forest Cover in States/UTs in India (SFR 2005)**

(Area in km2)

State/UT	Forest cover
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	44.372
Arunachal Pradesh	67.777
Assam	27.645
Bihar	5.579
Chhattisgarh	55.863
Delhi	176

1	2
Goa	2.164
Gujarat	14.75
Haryana	1.587
Himachal Pradesh	14.369
Jammu and Kashmir	21.273
Jharkhand	22.591
Karnataka	35.251
Kerala	15.595
Madhya Pradesh	76.013
Maharashtra	47.476
Manipur	17.086
Meghalaya	16.988
Mizoram	18.684
Nagaland	13.719
Orissa	48.374
Punjab	1.558
Rajasthan	15.850
Sikkim	3.262
Tamil Nadu	23.044
Tripura	8.155
Uttar Pradesh	14.127
Uttarakhand	24.442
West Bengal	12.413
Andaman & Nicobar	6.629
Chandigarh	15
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	221
Daman & Diu	8
Lakshadweep	25
Pondicherry	42
TOTAL :	677.088

SFR 2005 - State of Forest Report 2005 by Forest Survey of India.

Statement-II

*Forest cover of State/UTs SFR in 2001, 2003 and 2005 (SFR)**

(Area in km2)

State/UT	Forest cover in SFR 2001	Forest cover in SFR 2003	Forest cover in SFR 2005
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	44,637	44,412	44,372
Arunachal Pradesh	68,045	67,692	67,777
Assam	27,714	27,735	27,645
Bihar	5,720	5,573	5,579
Chhattisgarh	56,448	55,992	55,863
Delhi	111	174	176
Goa	2,095	2,164	2,164
Gujarat	15,152	14,814	14,715
Haryana	1,754	1,576	1,587
Himachal Pradesh	14,360	14,359	14,369
Jammu & Kashmir	21,237	21,273	21,273
Jharkhand	22,637	22,569	22,591
Karnataka	36,991	35,246	35,251
Kerala	15,560	15,595	15,595
Madhya Pradesh	77,265	76,145	76,013
Maharashtra	47,482	47,514	47,476
Manipur	16,926	17,259	17,086
Meghalaya	15,584	16,925	16,988
Mizoram	17,494	18,583	18,684
Nagaland	13,345	14,015	13,719
Orissa	48,838	48,353	48,374
Punjab	2,432	1,545	1,558
Rajasthan	16,367	15,821	15,850
Sikkim	3,193	3,262	3,262
Tamil Nadu	21,482	23,003	23,044
Tripura	7,065	8,123	8,155

1	2	3	4
Uttar Pradesh	13,746	14,127	14,127
Uttaranchal	23,938	24,460	24,442
West Bengal	10,693	12,389	12,413
Andaman and Nicobar	6,930	6,807	6,629
Chandigarh	9	15	15
Dadar Nagar Haveli	219	221	221
Daman & Diu	6	8	8
Lakshadweep	27	25	25
Pondicherry	36	42	42
GRAND TOTAL :	675,538	677,816	677,088

*SFR - State of Forest Report by Forest Survey of India.

Forest Cover in Tamil Nadu

339. SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the dense forest cover area of Tamil Nadu is far less in comparison to other Southern States;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for the lesser dense forest cover area in the State; and

(c) what efforts Central and State Governments have made or propose to make to increase the dense and other forests cover area in Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH) : (a) Yes, Sir. Of the four Southern States the extent of dense forest cover in Tamil Nadu is more than Kerala but less compared to Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. The details of dense forest cover in southern states including Tamil Nadu under various density classes of dense forest cover as per SFR 2005 are as follows:

(sq. km)

State	Very Dense Forest (VDF) (above 70% canopy cover)	Moderately Dense Forest (MDF) (40-70% of canopy cover)	Totals of VDF and MDF
Andhra Pradesh	130	24,199	24,329
Kerala	1024	8,636	9,660
Kamataka	464	21,634	22,098
Tamil Nadu	2650	9,790	12,440